



# SIR Branch 116 Newsletter June 2024

Enhancing the lives of our members through fun activities, luncheons and events while making Friends for Life

## Message from Alan

I hope you all enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend and remembered the troops that established the United States as the leader of the free world. While there was no luncheon in May, activities picked up pace, and the



Spring Fling offered another opportunity for some enjoyable moments. A big thanks to Byron Park for hosting the event and to the Byron Park staff for their wonderful service. The meal was delicious and included a fabulous mocha pecan torte dessert. At the event, Rich Black showcased remarkable marksmanship by successfully tossing three rolls of toilet paper into a container roughly the size of an executive inbox. It seems Rich's role as Chairman of Book Club 1 has endowed him with unexpected talents. Don't forget the June 26 Hazy Barbecue Dine-O-SIRS event. If it's like the last one at Hazy Barbecue, it will be a lot of fun and Tony de Grassi will again be entertaining.

As always, volunteers are essential. Currently, we need an assistant luncheon secretary to help organize the monthly luncheons and print the name badges for attendees. Additionally, we require someone to take over Matt Arena's responsibilities, which include gathering information on members who may be hospitalized or have passed away, ensuring they are remembered in our prayers.

Sam Beret, our Member Relations Chairman and Director, conducted an analysis of the 2024-member survey results. Two prominent concerns highlighted by members were regarding the food and the sound system at Boundary Oak. We are actively collaborating with Boundary Oak to address meal-related issues. You'll notice salads placed on the tables before the meeting begins; this adjustment aims to expedite the service of entrees, reducing their time in the warmers. Also, you'll find comment cards on the tables starting in June or July. If you have specific feedback about the meal, we'll compile your comments and provide them to Boundary Oak in a summarized format, following a successful model implemented by another SIRS branch.

Lastly, another concern raised in the member survey was the sound system. We will be taking steps to enhance the audio quality and volume. These enhancements are expected to improve members' ability to hear the luncheon presentations.

*Alan Pope*, Big SIR

### Next Meeting

June 17, 2024 @  
Boundary Oak,  
11:30 AM

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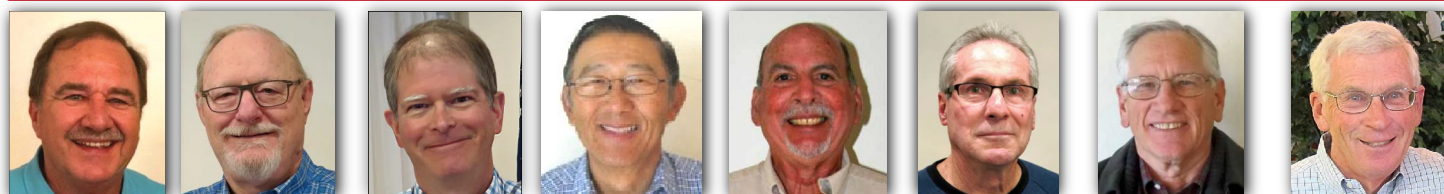
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Trampas Topics

Call 925-322-1318  
or email to  
[luncheon116@gmail.com](mailto:luncheon116@gmail.com)

by the Monday  
prior to the  
meeting to cancel  
your standing  
reservation.

## 2024 SIR Branch Officers



<b>Big SIR</b> Alan Pope	<b>Little SIR</b> Paul Russell	<b>Treasurer</b> Charlie Guthrie	<b>Asst. Treas.</b> Al Satake	<b>Secretary</b> Paul Ramacciotti	<b>Asst. Sec.</b> Dan Lawrence	<b>Membership</b> Alan Fitzgerald	<b>Asst. Membr.</b> Greg Hughes
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Don Benioff	Gary Bonfiglio	Jeff Johnson	Sam Beret	Roger Craig	Dave Williams
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### 2024 Support Chairmen

#### **RAMP Department Heads**

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| • Recruitment      | Don Schroeder |
| • Activities       | Mike Ward     |
| • Member Relations | Sam Beret     |
| • Publicity        | Robin Lemmo   |

#### **Branch Support Chairmen**

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • Audit Committee        | Ron Armijo             |
| • Nominating Committee   | Roger Craig            |
| • Sunshine Committee     | Open                   |
| • Computer Support       | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Webmaster              | Neil Schmidt/Phil Goff |
| • Newsletter Editor      | Neil Schmidt           |
| • New Member Orientation | Dave Williams          |
| • Membership Roster Prep | Phil Goff              |

#### **Diversity Support Team**

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| • Team Leader  | Fred Wachowicz     |
| • Team Member  | Sam Beret          |
| • Team Member  | Terry Sherman      |
| • Team Member  | Al Satake          |
| • Team Member  | Jerry Hicks        |
| • Team Member  | Michael Barrington |
| • Team Advisor | Lee Moy            |

#### **Luncheon Support Team**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Attendance             | Dennis Snarr              |
| • Audio Visual           | Neil Schmidt              |
| • Chaplain Committee     | Terry Sherman             |
| • Greeters Committee     | Ramacciotti, Datzman      |
| • Raffle Committee       | Ben Bryce                 |
| • Storytellers Committee | Mac McLoughlin/F. Schafer |

#### **Speakers Committee**

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • Team Member | James Dawe    |
| • Team Member | Allan Farbman |
| • Team Member | Paul Freitas  |
| • Team Member | Paul Russell  |

### 2024 Activity Chairmen

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Asst. Chairman</u>
Amiable Amblers	John Riordan	Joel White
Bocce	Bob Huck	
Book Group 1	Rich Black	Steve Bort
Book Group 2	Scott Clark	Alan Pope
Book Exchange	Dick Kauffman	
Bridge	Jon Dickson	Art Donaldson
Community Service	Jeff Johnson	TBA
Dine-O-SIR	Jerry Hicks	
Fishing	Harry Sherinian	Terry Miller
Golf—18 Hole	Bernie Wroblewski	Ed Lichtig
Golf—9 Hole	Dick Chaffee	D. Mclaughry
Golf—Treasurer	Harry Oberle	
Golf—Carmel	Phil Goff	
Golf—Clinic	Chris Doan	
Mexican Train	Richard Madden	Alex Lutkus
Parties	Open	TBA
Pickleball	Ed Solomon	Gary Bonfiglio
Poker	Open	
\$ums Investment	Dave Sutton, Br.8	
Sunshine	Open	
Theater	Terry Sherman	
Travel	Open	
Walking Tours	Greg Hughes	Jim Tamulski
Wine-O-SIR	Dave Havlik	

### **Some Other SIR Area 16 Activities**

Apple User Group	Stan Holcenberg (Br.171)	925-376-1180
Astronomy	Larry Lange (Br. 8)	925-254-6281
Bowling	Dan Weller (Br. 8)	925-935-5510
Cycling	Larry Kaye (Br.8)	925-698-4030
Digital Photography	Bill Phelon (Br.8)	925-254-8338
Men's Hearts Cards	Bob West (146)	925-518-8472

# Monthly Activities Calendar

## June 2024

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
						1
2	3 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	4	5 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Pleasanton)	6	7 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Stone Valley Rd. West)	8
9	10 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (9:40@ Boundary Oak)	11 <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door)	12 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills) <b>Mexican Train</b> (10:00@ Church of Christ, WC)	13 <b>Bocce</b> (10:00@ Clayton Courts) <b>Book Group 2</b> (11:00@ Arbolado Park, Walnut Creek)	14 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Moraga Commons) <b>Chess</b> (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr.)	15
16 <b>Father's Day</b>	17 <b>SIR Br. 116 Luncheon</b> (11:30@ Boundary Oak)	18 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:02@ Rancho Solano)	19 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Buchanan Fields)	20 <b>Wine-O-SIR</b> (4:00@ Jon Dickson)	21 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ WC Civic Park) <b>Walking Tour</b> (SF Maritime Musium)	22
23	24 <b>18-Hole Golf</b> (10:01@ Paradise Valley) <b>Book Group 1</b> (10:15@! Orinda Books)	25 <b>Luncheon Bridge</b> (10:30@ The Brass Door)	26 <b>9-Hole Golf</b> (10:00@ Diablo Hills) <b>\$ums Investment</b> (1:30 via Zoom) <b>Dine-O-SIR</b> (5:30@ Hazy BBQ)	27 <b>Fishing Group</b> (8:30@ Diablo Creek)	28 <b>Pickleball</b> (7:30@ WC Tennis, Heather Farm) <b>Amiable Amblers</b> (8:30@ Countrywood Black Bear Diner) <b>Chess</b> (1:00@ PH Senior Ctr)	29



# Branch Administration



**Branch Membership**  
Alan Fitzgerald, Membership Chairman

## Total Membership is 190

Our membership is holding steady in the 190 range. We had two members resign: **Hank McDermott** and **Tony de Grassi**. We have 2 new applications pending and 1 maybe.

**If you change your email address or other contact info please let me know so I can update the Membership DB and the Google Group DB (used for sending out branch messages).**



**Treasury Report**  
Charlie Guthrie, Treasurer

	16-May	2024 YTD
Beg Bal 2024		\$ 11,222.12
Contributions	\$ 891.00	\$ 29,510.82
Disbursements	\$ (1.52)	\$ (27,910.07)
Net (gain/(loss))	\$ <b>889.48</b>	\$ 1,600.75
May Cash Balance		\$ 12,822.87

## SIR HAPPENINGS

Checkout the new and improved State SIR Happenings Newsletter. With a new editor the newsletter February 2021 has been radically expanded with lots of information about fun things that are going on in our branches.

You can find it at: <https://sirinc.org/newsletters>

## SIR Web Addresses

SIR 116 Web Site

[branch116.org](http://branch116.org)

Branch 116 Golf

[branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)

Branch 116 Shopping Cart

[sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site](http://sons-in-retirement-las-trampas-br-116.square.site)

SIR Happenings State Newsletter

[sirinc.org/newsletters/](http://sirinc.org/newsletters/)

## June Birthdays

*When you see these members, wish them a Happy Birthday!*

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Andy Benz       | 11.Lou Meylan      |
| 2. Sam Beret       | 12.Sam Patti       |
| 3. Roger Craig     | 13.Alan Polanger   |
| 4. Kevin Donahue   | 14.Andy Richman    |
| 5. Phil Goff       | 15.Don Schroeder   |
| 6. Jerry Kaplan    | 16.Harry Sherinian |
| 7. Alex Lutkus     | 17.Fred Wachowicz  |
| 8. Bill McCallum   | 18.Mike Ward       |
| 9. Charlie McInnis | 19.Jai Yee         |
| 10.Dirk Meyer      |                    |

**Be Active**  
**Join a new SIR activity**  
**or**  
**Start a new activity**



# Luncheon Speaker

## "The FBI and Their Focus on Cyber Scams" By FBI Agents Lester Kwok & Michael Roldan



**Little SIR**  
Paul Russell

Our June Luncheon Speakers will be two seasoned Agents from the San Francisco office of the FBI – Special Agent Lester Kwok and Supervisory Special Agent Michael Roldan- who will present an overview of the current operations and mission of the FBI with a focus on Internet Scams/ Elder Fraud as well as information on other topics.



**Book Exchange**  
Dick Kauffman

If there is a book that interests you. As a reminder, bring a book and take a book or take a book and bring a book to the next luncheon. It is free and no hassle.

Enjoy convenient reading, courtesy of the SIR Sherpas



### The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak **Luncheon Menu** Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Salad

Mesclun Greens, Carrots, Tomatoes,  
Croutons, Ranch Dressing

#### Entrées

##### Chicken Marsala

Herb Marinated Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf,  
Seasonal Vegetables, Marsala Shallot Mushroom  
Cream Sauce

—or—

##### Cod Marsala

Herb Marinated Cod, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal  
Vegetables, Marsala Shallot Mushroom Cream  
Sauce

—or—

##### Spinach Ricotta Manicotti

Four Cheese & Spinach Cannelloni, Seasonal  
Vegetable, House Tomato Basil Sauce

#### Dessert

Apple Pie with Whipped Vanilla Cream

### Trampas Topics Submissions

We need your contributions and suggestions for Trampas Topics. Please send photos, news items, SIR activities, and Letters to the Editor:



Neil Schmidt, Trampas Topics  
Editor ([trampastopics@gmail.com](mailto:trampastopics@gmail.com))

# Branch Activities



## Fishing Harry Sherinian

SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are Big Fish, Phil Scimonelli 661-917-8060 or Harry Sherinian, 510-207-7067, Branch 116 Fishing Coordinator. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, June 27th at 8:30am. Come early.

Trout from San Pablo Reservoir were caught by Dave Havlik, Ray Pixton, George Vogt, and Carl Moyer. Dave, Carl, Brion Beetz, and Lee Clark caught halibut and stripers in the bay. Only Carl Moyer got out on the ocean for the opening of near shore rockfish. In 4 trips he landed rockfish, lingcod, and a bonus 20 pound halibut. Stan Wong, Tom Kostik, and Phil Scimonelli fought feisty striped bass in the delta.



Fish Fry at Carl's House



## Pickleball Ed Solomon

**Pickleball**, is the fastest growing team sport in the U.S. for all ages. With the summer months coming soon, we now start **7:30 to 9 am every Friday**, at The Tennis Center in Heather Farm, Walnut Creek. Here's a brief Introduction to Pickleball...

<https://www.youtube.com/atcv=xEYsymCtIDY>

Required equipment- Paddle, balls, and tennis

sneakers. ( We have extra paddles and balls) Beginners all welcome....it's the best way to see what all the excitement is about. Come on down!!!

Ed Solomon. Co-Chair ——415-215-2684 m

Gary Bonfiglio Co-Chair ——925-330-9612 m

**COME ON BY TO PLAY, OR JUST WATCH!!!!**  
We're not bad for a bunch of **SIR Dudes!!**



# Branch Activities



## Book Group 1 Rich Black

Book Group #1 will discuss the following books at Orinda Books at 10:15 am on the following dates.

**Monday, June 24..** "The Code Breaker" by Walter Isaacson

**Monday, July 22..** "American Dirt" by Cummins

**Monday, August 26...**"Road to Surrender" by Thomas

First Report.....Book Group #1 met on Monday, April 29, 2024 at Orinda Books to discuss "Black Death at the Golden Gate" by David Randall, an account of the efforts by officers of the Public Health Service, then the Marine Hospital Service, to thwart an epidemic of the Bubonic Plague in San Francisco which began in 1900 and subsided in 1908. Ignorance, racism, the power structure, commercial interests, and even medical arrogance all played a part in prolonging efforts to eliminate the Plague. In the end, one Dr. Rupert Blue held the plague at bay because he was willing and able to implement a program of rat eradication where other approaches proved unfeasible in the culture of the times.

Brad Stribling recommended the book while Richard Black led the discussion with Joel White, Art Donaldson, Mac McLoughlin, Mike Schneider, Garrett Girvan, John Kopchik, Dan Renke, Tim Tinnes, Todd Berman, and Dick Kauffman. Book Club #1 awarded the book 4.1 stars.

Second Report ...Book Group #1 met again on Monday, May 20, 2024 at Orinda Books to discuss

"Fever in the Heartland" by Timothy Egan, an account of the rise of the Indiana Ku Klux Klan, with parallel growth in other states, about 100 years ago. Concealed under white robes and cone masks, the KKK preached temperance, family values and racial supremacy of white Anglo-Saxon Protestants during the day while sponsoring lynching, cross burning and terrorism for Catholics, Jews, and African Americans at night. The Indiana chapter was the creation of David Stephenson, a con man and manipulator of mass psychology. Stephenson's undoing was the sadistic torture and rape of twenty-seven year old Madge Oberholtzer who sought relief from Stephenson's assault by suicide but lived long enough to dictate a "dying declaration." The declaration, admitted as evidence at a trial, exposed the toxic hypocrisy of the KKK while leading a jury of Indiana farmers to convict Stephenson of murder. The exposure of the murderous debauchery of Klan leadership deflated Klan membership to near insignificance.

The group noted that the patterns in mass psychology which Stephenson engendered have emerged often in the ensuing 100 years including our present times with a divisive political environment engendered by both political parties.

Mac McLoughlan introduced the book while Richard Black led the discussion with Joel White, Art Donaldson, Garrett Girvan, John Kopchik, Dan Renke, Tim Tinnes, Todd Berman, and Steve Bort. Book Club #1 awarded the book 4.5 stars.

## \$UMS Investment

Tom Henry (Br. 174)

As suggested by Dan Smith of Branch 8, here's how future \$UMS bulletin writeups will read – so no need to do a different one each month except for Nov and Dec when the dates change due to the holidays:

As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4th Wednesday at 1:30 PM.

Email Dave Sutton to be included or to learn the topic.

Chair: Tom Henry, Branch 174,  
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair: Dave Sutton, Branch 8,  
davesutn@comcast.net

# Branch Activities



## Community Service Jeff Johnson

*"If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be heard."*

On May 9th we worked at the White Pony Express to sort and repack contributions from large grocery stores into smaller packaging for out-ward delivery to food kitchens and other worthy food distribution agencies.



On July 13th we will be at the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank, actually distributing food to the needy. We will be working at two locations, Richmond and Fairfield. We need a few more volunteers – please contact me if you are interested.



At lunch on June 17th the Food Bank donation barrel will again be at the front door for your donations.

Let me know if you are interested in joining us. (jeffjohnson9000@att.net or 415-652-4840.



## Walking Tours Greg Hughes

**Currently, we are planning the following activities:**

**Friday, June 21, 2024 – SF Maritime Museum –** Museum staff will discuss present a film covering the museum's history and participants will explore the museum's displays. Lunch will be at the San Francisco Brewing Co, 3150 Polk St. If you plan to go please advise Jim Tamulski who is coordinating the lunch reservations. Lastly, participant's can opt to drive and park at Ghiradelli Square (\$6/hr). Conversely, there are a number of other BART, Muni, Uber and walking options for our members to consider.

**Friday, August 23, 2024 – Lafayette City Tour:** Lafayette Historical Society will provide a one hour presentation covering the history of Lafayette, followed by a 45 minute guided walking tour of the historical downtown buildings.

We were planning a **Ukulele concert in Larkey Park**, Walnut Creek. We visited these performances and determined that they were not suitable for a Walking Tour venue.

If you have questions please contact Greg Hughes (greghughes505@gmail.com, 925-998-5650, or Jim Tamulski (tamulski.james@gmail.com) , 415-297-2655).



# Branch Activities



## Support Chairman Michael Ward

### CHESS ACTIVITY

In the Annual 2024 Survey, there were five members that were interested in starting a CHESS Group. So far, only one member has contacted me about forming a CHESS Group.

In checking around, I have found that Branches 8 and 146 are in the process of forming a new Chess Group together. Our Branch 116 members are also welcome to join Branches 8 and 146 to play Chess.

The first Chess play date will be on Friday May 24, 2024. The Chess Group will meet on the 2nd and the 4th Friday of each month from 1:00PM to 3:00 PM at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center. The center is located at 233 Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill.

If you have an interest in playing CHESS with Branches 8 and 146, please contact me by phone or email.

### 2024 ANNUAL SURVEY- NEW ACTIVITIES

Out of the recent survey, the following new Activities were requested by five or more (each activity) members that took the survey.

- BOWLING
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- GROUP THEATRE
- WEST COAST WEEKEND TRAVEL

- ONE TO THREE WEEK TRAVEL TRIPS
- CYCLING
- COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
- INVESTMENT GROUP
- WORKOUT GROUP
- CHESS
- HIKING (½ to 1 Day trips)

If any member has a desire to start one of these activities up or become a Activity member, please feel free to contact me.

### ACTIVITY CHAIRMAN NEEDED

Due to relocation, sickness and Activity Chairman changes, our Branch has four (4) Activities that do not have Activity Chairman.

These activities are:

- PARTIES
- POKER
- SUNSHINE
- TRAVEL

These ACTIVITIES will remain closed until our branch has Chairman that will step up and take over the Chairmanship of each Activity.

Please contact me if you have a desire to take over as Chairman.



## Dine-O-SIR Jerry Hicks

### Redo Summer Solstice

"On the Road Again" for a popular and fun evening at Danville's Hazy BBQ patio on Wednesday, June 26. "Summertime, and the livin' is easy", celebrates the day of a long and warm Summer Solstice. Tom Eller and Larry Heaton brought a bigger and better evening, starting with social hour at 5:30 PM, appetizers included. Featuring Tony de Grassi entertaining us with singing and playing guitar

during our cocktail. Hazy's frozen cocktails are attractive, and their many selections of beers and wines are reasonable. Your appetite will be very satisfied and yummy for buffet BBQ dishes, salads, and dessert bars. See the attached flyer for information and for your reservation and sign up for this fun event.

Your Dine-O-SIR committee: Tom Eller, Larry Heaton, Jerry Hicks, Bob Donohue, Mike Yale

# Branch Activities

# Dine-O-SIR



## Branch 116 June 26, 2024, Buffet Outdoor Patio

200 Hartz Avenue, Danville

**Cost \$44.00 per person inclusive**

Wednesday, June 26, 2024. Social Hour at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM

*Featured Performance with Tony de Grassi, Guitar and Singing*

Special price Red and White Wines, Beers, frozen cocktails, and Beverages; Corkage \$15

### Buffet Dinner Menu

Appetizers for Social Hour:

Bruschetta and Brisket Meatballs

#### **Dinner Buffet:**

Chicken, Brisket, and Salmon with sauces

Sides: Creamy Slaw, Potato Salad, Brisket Beans

#### **Delicious Decadent Dessert:**

Fudge Brownie Bar, Brown Butter Mallow Bar

Parking: Few spaces in lot, City parking across the street, few street spaces

Detach\*\*\*\*\*

### **Hazy Barbeque on the Patio, Wednesday, June 26, 2024**

Must be received no later than June 18, 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees \_\_\_\_ @ \$44.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Check to SIR Branch 116 Dining, c/o 10 San Ardo Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598**

Call: Tom Eller if you have questions at 925-939-5897 or tomeller2000@yahoo.com; or

**Larry Heaton at 925-939-5998 or alamoheaton@yahoo.com**

# Branch Activities



## Book Group 2 Scott Clark

Book Club 2 met on May 16 to discuss Half American by Matthew F Delmont. Members voted the book 4/5.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 11 AM, at Arbolado Park Walnut Creek in front of the basketball courts. We will discuss the American classic The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by (the great) Mark Twain. Huck Finn will be a launching point for our July discussion of James, by Percival Everett. All are welcome to attend. We promise you a few laughs along the way. Contact Scott Clark for more information, 925-998-4553 or scottmclark72@gmail.com

### Brief summary of Half American

Story unfolds in the years during and after WWII.

Over one million Black men and women served in World War II. Black troops were at Normandy, Iwo Jima, and the Battle of the Bulge, serving in segregated units and performing unheralded but vital support jobs, only to be denied housing and educational opportunities on their return home. Without their crucial contributions to the war effort, the United States could not have won the war. And yet the stories of these Black veterans have long been

ignored.

Half American is American history as you've likely never read it before. In these pages are stories of Black heroes such as Thurgood Marshall, the chief lawyer for the NAACP, who investigated and publicized violence against Black troops and veterans; Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., leader of the Tuskegee Airmen, who was at the forefront of the years-long fight to open the Air Force to Black pilots; Ella Baker, the civil rights leader who advocated on the home front for Black soldiers, veterans, and their families; James Thompson, the 26-year-old whose letter to a newspaper laying bare the hypocrisy of fighting against fascism abroad when racism still reigned at home set in motion the Double Victory campaign; and poet Langston Hughes, who worked as a war correspondent for the Black press. Their bravery and patriotism in the face of unfathomable racism is both inspiring and galvanizing. In a time when the questions World War II raised regarding race and democracy in America remain troublingly relevant and still unanswered, this meticulously researched retelling makes for urgently necessary reading.



## Mexican Train Dominos Richard Madden

"Mexican Train" is a domino game which uses a set of Double Twelve Dominoes. From 2 to 8 can play. Each player draws 11 to 15 dominoes. The number of dominoes each player draws depends on the number of players. The object of the game is to play all your dominoes. When you draw your hand, you set it up so that the adjacent dominoes match. During the play of a round there are things that can derail your train so that you cannot play. This can make the game very interesting and a lot of FUN!

We normally meet at 10:00 AM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Church of Christ

located at 500 Minert Road, Walnut Creek.

We met in April with eight in attendance. Those present were Gary Bonfiglio, Paul Freitas, Earl Gore, guest, Alex Lutkus, Richard Madden, Kirk McVean, Alan Polanger and Harry Sherinian. Our scores ranged from 236 to 503. Paul had the low score of 236 was high with a score of 300. The average score was 406.

Come join us at our next meeting.

You can contact Richard Madden, maddenram@sbcglobal.net or 925.788.4223

# Branch Activities



## Carmel in September

Mark your calendars, we will have a Branch 116 gathering in Carmel this coming September. We've secured a block of 20 rooms at the charming Carmel Mission Inn for the nights of **September 10th, 11th, and 12th**, all at an exclusive discounted rate. Participants are invited to book their stay for any combination of these three nights. In the evenings, we'll convene on the hotel's outdoor patio for some leisurely socializing.

Our golfing itinerary includes rounds at Monterey Park on September 11th and at Pacific Grove on September 12th. Additionally, we're in the process of arranging a delightful luncheon for those not participating in golf.

Come Wednesday evening, we'll be hosting a celebratory banquet dinner at a local restaurant, promising both a delectable menu and a memorable dining experience.

Detailed reservation instructions will be emailed in mid-June to all Branch members who expressed an interest in an earlier survey. If you are not sure you received the survey, please contact me and I will put you on the list.

This event is open to all and is shaping up to be a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. There's no doubt that Carmel in September is the place to be.



### Bridge Jon Dickson

We play, and have lunch, every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon, starting at 10:30 AM. We usually finish by 2:30 PM. Play is Chicago style, changing tables and partners every 4th hand.

On May 14th Jon Dickson came in first with 7530

points, close to a record. Jai Yee was second with 5150 points. Then on May 28th, Jon Dickson again won with 5460 points with Gordon Gonsalves coming in second with 4550 points.

If you play bridge, do join us for our fun, not too serious games.



### Bocce Bob Huck

Our season is going well and the next games are this coming Thursday, May 30 in Clayton. We have 4 teams and play 3 games every other Thursday from April to October. All teams are currently full but if

you have an interest in playing next year let me know. If we have a strong interest for next year we might add more teams and a 3rd court.



# Branch Activities

## Spring Fling 2024 (May 9<sup>th</sup>)





# Branch Activities



## Amiable Amblers John Riordan

May walkers included Todd Berman, Richard Black & Donna Arganbright, Steve Bort, Art & Mary Alice Donaldson, Al & Nancy Farbman, Dick Frankel, Paul & Anna Freitas, David & Colleen Geary, Essie Naddaf, John Riordan, Brad Stribling, Tim & Dianne Tinnes, and Joel & Susan White.

Richard Black led the May 3 walk north on the Iron Horse Trail from Civic Park, with a post-walk gathering at the Buttercup Café. Joel White led the May 17 walk on the Iron Horse Trail north from the Railroad Museum, with a post-walk gathering at the Danville Black Bear Diner. On May 24 we did a wildflower walk in Mitchell Canyon (Mt Diablo State Park), with a post-walk gathering at Huckleberry's. The May 31 walk is scheduled for the Martinez Regional Shoreline, with a post-walk gathering at States Coffee.

The June walks will begin at 8:30AM: note the earlier start time. On **June 7** meet at the Stone Valley Rd West trailhead for a walk north on the Iron Horse

Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Peet's Coffee in the Alamo Shopping Center. On **June 14** meet at the Moraga Commons for a walk north on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Moraga Town Bakery and Café. On **June 21** meet at the Walnut Creek Civic Park for a walk north along the Iron Horse Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at Caffe La Scala. On **June 28** meet at the Countrywood Black Bear Diner for a walk east along the Contra Costa Canal Trail; the post-walk gathering will be at the diner.

These walks are for individuals or couples, as spouses and significant others are encouraged to participate. The significant other/spouse is also invited to participate even when the member is unable to. SIR members, including those from other branches, wishing to join this mellow group or to be added to the email contact list should contact me at [jriordan730@gmail.com](mailto:jriordan730@gmail.com) or 925-284-3394. Also contact me if you wish to be removed from the list for future emails.



Amiable Amblers in Mitchell Canyon



# Branch Activities



## Golf Clinic Chris Doan

The Golf Clinic is designed specifically for the SIR Golfer and Spouse/Significant Other. It is focused on “tuning up” your game and shaving off some strokes to have a more enjoyable outing. Since the most improvement can normally be gained in the short game, we start the series at the green and work back to the tee box.

The 2024 rotation will begin with...

- Putting & Sand Shots June 15
- then Chipping July 13
- then 50-70 Yards Short Game Aug 3
- followed by Fairway Shots Aug 24

- and finally, Tee Shots Sep 21

### How to register and participate:

- Start by getting on the Clinic email list. Send request to [cdoan99@gmail.com](mailto:cdoan99@gmail.com) to be added.
- Each Clinic details will be communicated by e-mail ... reservations are made by responding to the e-mail.

Hope you will join us in 2024 to tune up your game. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss clinic topics which are important to you.

FORE!



## Wine-O-SIR David Havlik



On May 23rd, the WINE-O-SIRS enjoyed a great evening of good company, tasty food, spectacular weather, and very flavorful wines on the patio of Jon Dickson's home in Alamo. Jon regaled us with the history of Chateau Montelena and his personal connection to this iconic winery, before

...serving a sampling of their wines. In June, we will have another tasting event, at 4:00 PM on the 27th, this time at the home of Paul and Pam Russell, co-hosted by Jim and Mo Johnson.



## Match Play Golf Jerry Hicks

### 2024 Match Play

Our Branch's annual Match Play golf began in April with sixteen players and now four have advanced to semi-final matches on June 3rd at Boundary Oak. Winners of their first two contests that are readying are: Bill Hemmelsbach vs. Al Zavattero and Jack Minicucci vs. Bernie Wroblewski. Tune into Boundary Oak communication and bet and root for your favorite!

In the past April of State Sir Golf at Napa's

outstanding Chardonnay and Eagle Vines golf courses our Branch team placed 2nd of 28 teams in the scramble game. Leading was our Big Sir Alan Pope and his team of Bob Colvin, Jerry Hicks and Ed Lichtig. State Sir Golf two-day tournaments for fun and competition are held about bi-monthly. Notable tournaments on the schedule are August 7&8, a team championship, and then on October 3 for an individual championship. Look for information on SIR Golf website.

# Branch Activities



## SIR Golf

Bernie Wroblewski, Golf Chairman

We have an active golf organization consisting of 18-hole and 9-hole groups. A small annual donation is required to play in either group. The 18-hole group plays once a week in a Tournament format with play alternating between local courses and courses that may be 10 to 50 miles away.

In addition to the Tournament format, Special Events such as Match Play, Best Ball, Scramble, and others are also periodically scheduled.

Those playing in the 18-hole group must be members of the Northern California Golf

Association (NCGA) and establish a handicap index. You may join the NCGA through our SIR club or through another club.

Foursomes in both the 18-hole and 9-hole groups are arranged so that players can meet and enjoy playing with most, if not all, the other players in the branch.

All our events are listed in the Trampas Topics and on our web site at [branch116.org/116-golf](http://branch116.org/116-golf). Join up with us and enjoy outings with a great bunch of guys at some great courses with reasonable prices.



## 9-Hole Golf

Dick Chaffee

The 9 Hole Golf Club is open to SIR golfers of all levels. We play every Wednesday morning except holidays at 4 courses in the area. This year, each month, we are playing Pleasanton Golf Club, Diablo Hills, Buchanan Fields and Dublin Ranch. Our first tee time is 10:00am. Some months have a fifth Wednesday. On the fifth Wednesdays, we schedule

special 9 hole events at courses in the area.

If you would like to play 9 hole golf, please contact Dick Chaffee, the 9 hole golf chairman, (925)-932-5087.

If you would like more information on 9 hole golf, please visit our Branch 116 golf web site.

## Golf Website

The Golf Website is: [branch116golf.org](http://branch116golf.org)  
Please bookmark it in your "Favorites" list of websites to access information on the following:

- Annual Golf Schedule: Dates, times, and courses as well as detailed information on costs, payment information, deadlines, and special event facts.

- 18-Hole Pairings: Shows captains, teams, starting times & handicaps for next event.
- 18-Hole Leaders and Results: Shows results from recent events and leaders in each group.
- Paid-In-Advance Sign-Ups: Shows checks that have been received for the next 3-4 pre-paid outings.

### June 9-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Wed. 05	10:00 AM	Pleasanton	Chris Doan
Wed. 12	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry
Wed. 19	10:00 AM	Buchanan Fields	Dick Chaffee
Wed. 26	10:00 AM	Diablo Hills	D.McClaughry

### June 18-Hole Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Organizer
Mon. 03	9:40	Boundary Oak	Don Schroeder
Mon. 10	9:40	Boundary Oak	Don Schroeder
Tues. 18	10:02	Rancho Solano	Don Schroeder
Mon. 24	10:01	Paradise Valley	Don Schroeder